



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
MICHAEL T. MATULAVICH, CHIEF OF POLICE

NUMBER P-2008-009	EFFECTIVE DATE July 7, 2008	RESCINDS P-03-009 Issued 3-3-03
SUBJECT Mobile Field Force Procedure		ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief Michael T. Matulavich

I. POLICY

Large scale civil disorders, natural disasters, or other catastrophic events require rapid coordination and an orderly, tactically sound response.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Arrest Teams and Squads – Consists of one sergeant and an appropriate number of officers.
- B. Mobile Field Force (MFF) – A platoon of police officers and sergeants led by a lieutenant. It consists of three to five squads and may be supplemented by the SWAT team.
- C. Task Force – More than one operational MFF.
- D. Task Force Commander (TFC) – A captain who coordinates the activities at the scene of a major incident and may be called upon to command a task force when two or more MFFs are activated. He operates out of the Incident Command Post.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The commander of the Uniform Subdivision will appoint a captain or lieutenant to serve in the capacity of a MFF Administrative Commander.
- B. MFF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
 - 1. Appoints two supervisors; one to serve in the capacity of a MFF Equipment Supervisor and the other to serve as the MFF Training Supervisor.
 - 2. May assume the role of TFC when two or more MFFs are deployed during an actual emergency.
 - 3. Ensures that all personnel are properly trained.
 - 4. Serves as a liaison with any other agency.

C. MFF TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assist in the selection and training of new primary chemical agent officers and refresher training for primary chemical agent officers.
2. Coordinates MFF Training for the entire police department.

D. MFF EQUIPMENT SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Inventory, maintain, and update as necessary all MFF equipment and chemical munitions.
2. Ensure that there is an adequate supply of munitions, masks and MFF equipment to outfit numerous MFF details.
3. Assist the MFF training supervisor.

E. ORGANIZATION OF THE MFF

1. MFF commander (MFFC)
 - a. Assigns the administrative sergeant.
 - b. Leads the convoy in spontaneous mobilization.
 - c. Determines the method of deployment.
 - d. In addition to the prisoner wagons, consider utilizing Metro bus for housing and transporting of prisoners.
2. Administrative sergeant
 - a. Maintains a log for after-action report.
 - b. Must be capable of assuming command.
 - c. Assists MFFC.
3. Chemical agent officer
 - a. Responsible for advising MFFC of the proper type and amounts of chemical munitions to be utilized.
 - b. Deploys the munitions as ordered.

- c. Once the decision has been made to use chemical agents, the MMFC should rely on the experience and training of the primary chemical agent officers to determine the type, method and amount of chemical agents to be deployed.
- 4. Squad sergeants
 - a. Responsible for the activities of each squad member.
 - b. Trained in use of chemical munitions.
 - c. Handles all radio communications except in case of an emergency.
 - d. Ensures that officers and vehicles are properly equipped including helmets and gas masks.
- 5. Arresting team
 - a. Handles rescues in addition to arrests.
 - b. Will sign all complaints.
- 6. Security officers provide protection for MFF vehicles.
- F. All members of the department are required to have a uniform and standard equipment at-hand while on duty. In addition:
 - 1. A long sleeve shirt is recommended.
 - 2. Riot helmet with face shield.
 - 3. Issued gas mask.

G. SPONTANEOUS MOBILIZATION

- 1. On duty personnel
 - a. Hold over outgoing patrol and traffic shifts.
 - b. Utilize Detective Bureau, Training Bureau, Crime Scene Unit, etc.
 - c. Utilize personnel that are currently working secondary employment.
- 2. Utilize the call in procedure for off duty personnel.

3. The on duty shift commander should make every effort to maintain a police presence in the effected area until additional units arrive. He should also consider the personnel needs for the remainder of the city.

H. INITIATING MOBILIZATION

1. Assign the first arriving sergeant to obtain the key to the indoor range from Safety Communications and bring the MFF kit to the location of the roll call. MFF kits are also available in the Patrol lieutenants' vehicles.
2. This sergeant will now be designated as the supervisor of Squad 1. This sergeant will obtain the Squad 1 packet from the MFF kit and remove the blank MFF roster.
3. As officers arrive, this sergeant will assign each officer to a squad.
4. The mobilization will continue as instructed in the MFF kit.

J. DEPLOYMENT - Once a MFF has been formed and an assignment given, the following system of movement will be used:

1. All movements will be in a convoy at the direction of the MFFC in the lead vehicle, followed by the assigned squads in numerical order. The prisoner van or metro bus will trail the convoy.
2. The convoy will move at the speed set by the commander. The objective is to arrive as one unit in an organized manner. All vehicles are to remain close enough to be able to continue through intersections uninterrupted, but far enough apart to compensate for sudden stops.
3. When the MFFC activates his emergency overhead lights, all MFF vehicles will follow their lead. When the MFFC discontinues the use of overhead lights, all the MFF units will turn off their lights.
4. When necessary, at intersections, the MFFC will use the overhead emergency lights and siren to enter the intersection and continue through. Trailing units will cautiously follow directly behind the MFFC's vehicle to maintain a constant flow of vehicles through the intersection.
5. Windows will generally be rolled up to prevent material from being thrown into the police vehicle.
6. The MFFC will determine parking.
7. Ignition keys will be left in the vehicle ignition whenever the MFF is parked.

L. CROWD CONTROL

1. Column Formation – Upon arriving at the scene, officers will gather equipment and assemble in a column formation. The column formation consists of two columns of officers and is used to march to the problem area from the assembly area. The squads are lined up in a column formation as follows: (See Annex B.)
2. Line Formation – Once the column formation has assembled, the MFF will march in cadence to the problem area. Upon arriving at the problem area, Squad 2 (yellow) sergeant will order the MFF to deploy into a line formation using wording such as “line formation here” and pointing to the spot. The first officer in each column will step forward to the designated spot and the remaining officers in each column will use the “peel” method to form the line. For example, officers in the left column will form a line to the left of the officer in front of him. (See Annex C.)
3. Arrest/Rescue Formation
 - a. This squad is situated behind the line and at the approximate center of the formation or offset of center if two arrest/rescue squads are deployed. This squad is formed in two columns extending perpendicular to the front line. (See Annex E.)
 - b. When they are within range to apprehend a suspect or rescue a victim, the arrest/rescue squad moves to the right or left along the rear of the front line until the victim or subject is directly in front of them.
 - c. The squads on the line allow the arrest/rescue squad to penetrate through the line, accomplish their mission, and return behind the line. The arrest/rescue squad shall not pursue subjects beyond a safe distance away from the line formation of officers. This is to avoid the arrest/rescue squad from becoming caught in the hostile crowd.
 - d. A prisoner wagon should follow closely behind the movements of the MFF and additional personnel should be assigned to the wagon to assist in processing.
 - e. The arrest/rescue squad will provide removal of injured officers. In the event of injury to one of the shotgun specialists assigned to flank security, an officer from the arrest/rescue squad will fill the position.
 - f. The two lead officers of the arrest/rescue squad should be equipped with body shields to afford a minimum level of protection while the squad is operating outside the front line.
4. Additional Flanking Movements
 - a. Basic flanking movements have been covered in Annex F.
 - b. The direction of the MFF’s forward motion may be changed as in Annex G.

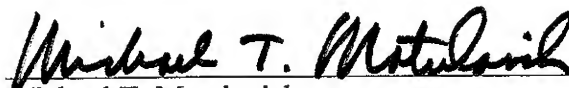
5. The foregoing strategies were designed for single event situations utilizing the entire MFF. It should be noted that the flexibility of the concept allows for the MFF to be broken down into smaller units (minimum size, one squad) to facilitate the handling of multiple events occurring simultaneously.

M. PROGRESSION OF FORCE - The following progression of force is recommended for crowd dispersal assignments:

1. Show of force – The MFF will respond in a military fashion displaying organization, discipline, and competence.
2. Order to disperse – The objective of a formation is to move the crowd without violence, therefore, the MFFC will issue a dispersal order to the crowd.
 - a. “I am (rank and name) of the Akron Police Department. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and, in the name of the State of Ohio, command all persons so assembled at (specific location) to immediately and peaceably disperse. If you do not do so, you will be arrested.”
 - b. The MFFC will identify the direction for the crowd to move from the area and allow sufficient time for them to respond, usually five minutes. The commander and primary chemical agent officers will already be considering the feasibility of using chemical agents. The MFFC must exercise his judgement to determine the amount of time it will take for the crowd to disperse, yet also ensure that control of the situation is maintained. Unless emergency circumstances demand immediate action, it is important that police authorities warn the crowd and clearly demonstrate that adequate time to disperse has been provided before offensive action is initiated.
 - c. The MFFC is most effective when a police vehicle is at the rear of the MFF and the loudspeaker is used to advise the crowd to disperse. This system can also be used to move police personnel on command.
3. Chemical Agents
 - a. If the crowd does not disperse and the decision has been made to use chemical agents, and circumstances permit, the commander will issue the order again and indicate that chemical agents will be used.
 - b. The MFFC should rely on the experience and training of the primary chemical agent officers to determine the type, method, and amount of chemical agents to be deployed.

4. Offensive Movement – Conditions may not make chemical agents the most feasible alternative, or once chemical agents have been deployed, the crowd may still have to be dispersed. Movement of the MFF is the next alternative. The MMFC will use the following commands:
- a. **One** whistle or airhorn blast indicates **advancing forward** while tapping in cadence.
 - b. **Two** whistles or airhorn blasts indicate **stop**.
 - c. A **rapid succession** of whistles or airhorn blasts indicates **withdraw**.

By Order Of,



Michael T. Matulavich
Chief of Police

Date June 9, 2008

ANNEX A

MOBILE FIELD FORCE
VEHICLE CONVOY LINE-UP

1. BASIC CONVOY LINE-UP

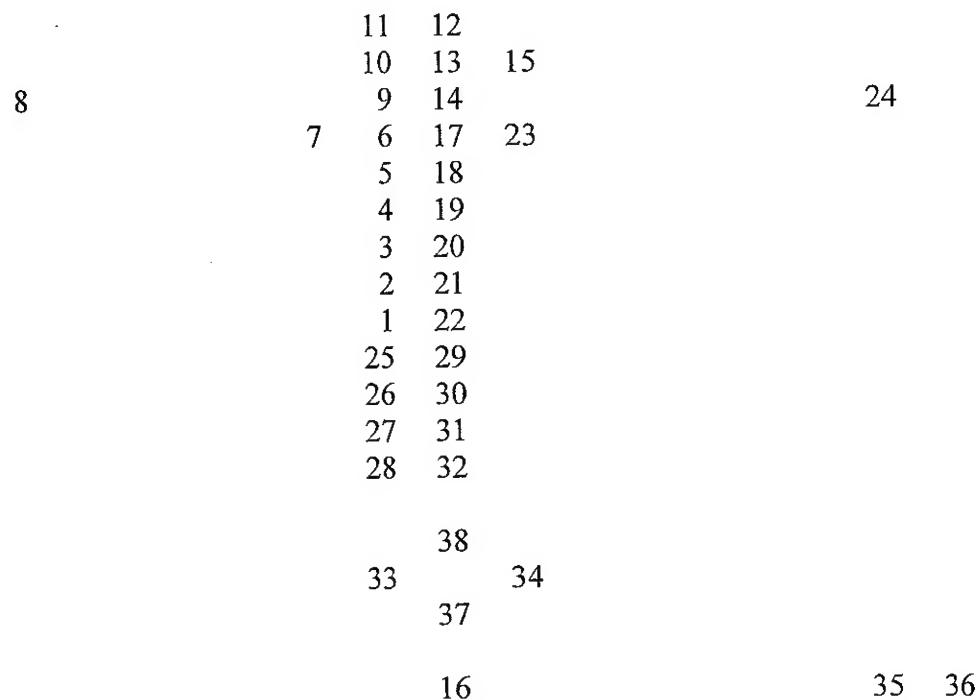
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2. OPTIONAL LINE-UP

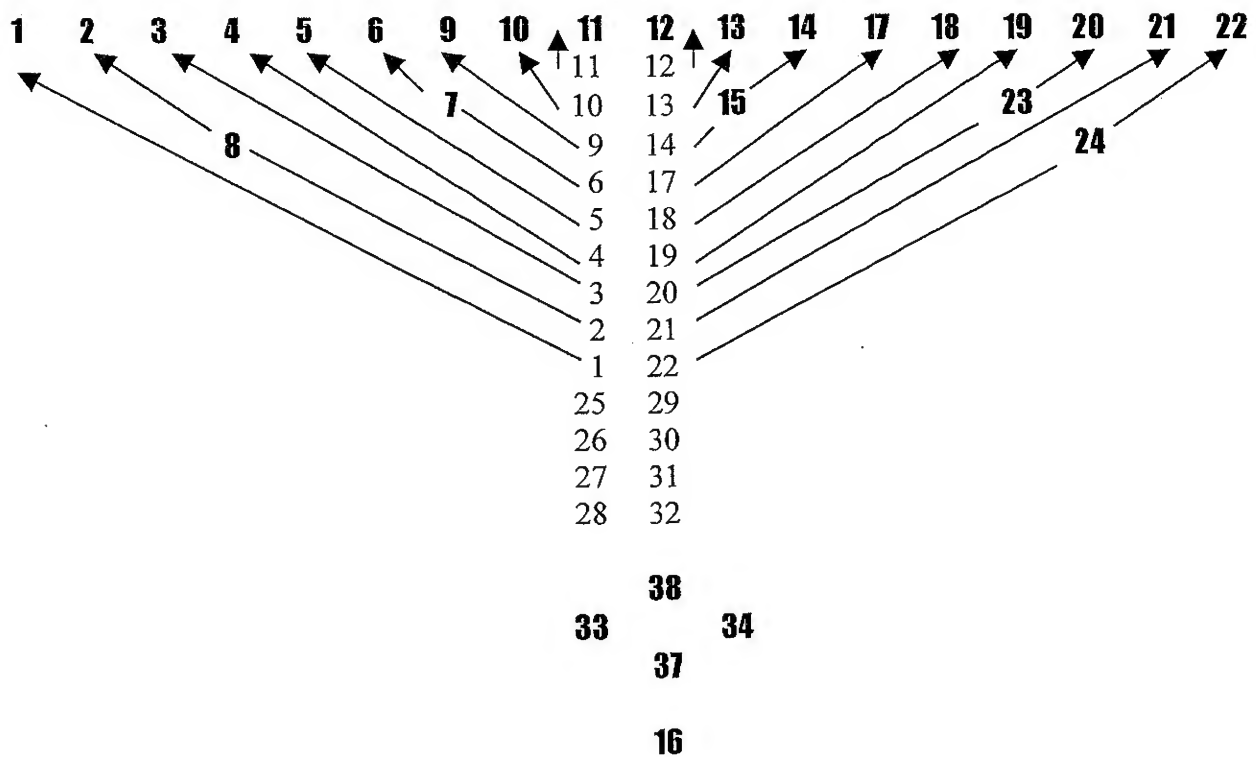
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ANNEX B

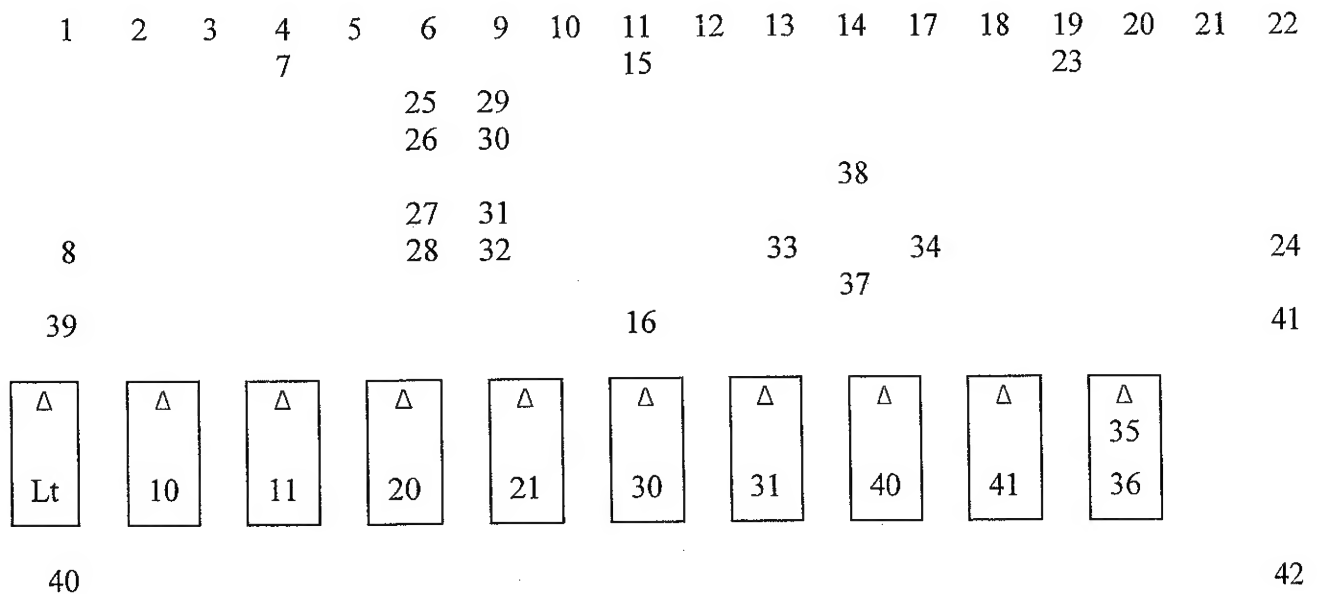
COLUMN FORMATION



1-6	Officers of Squad 1 with shields	24	Right flanking chemical agent officer
7	Sergeant of Squad 1	25-31	Officers of Squad 4, arrest/rescue squad
8	Left flanking chemical agent officer	32	Sergeant of Squad 4
9-14	Officers of Squad 2 with shields	33-34	Primary chemical agent officers
15	Sergeant of Squad 2	35-36	Prisoner wagon officers
16	Rear flanking chemical agent officer	37	Administrative sergeant
17-22	Officers of Squad 3 with shields	38	Mobile Field Force Commander
23	Sergeant of Squad 3	39-42	Vehicle security

ANNEX C**COLUMN TO LINE FORMATION**

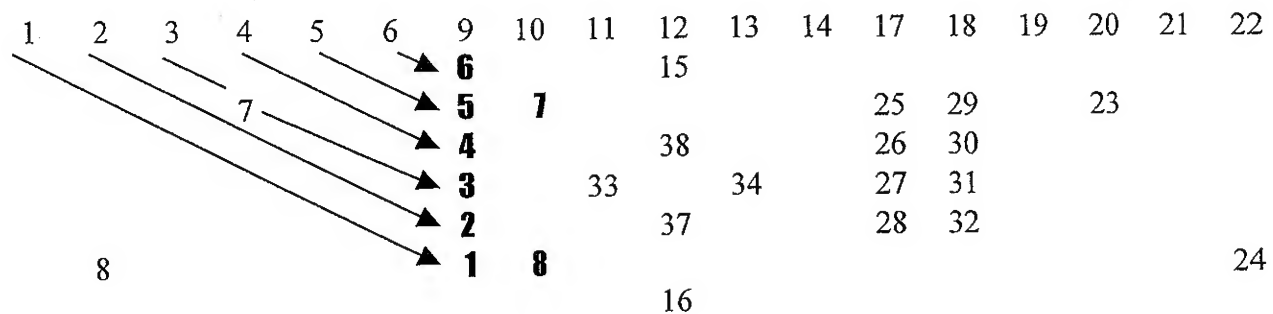
1-6	Officers of Squad 1 with shields	24	Right flanking chemical agent officer
7	Sergeant of Squad 1	25-31	Officers of Squad 4, arrest/rescue squad
8	Left flanking chemical agent officer	32	Sergeant of Squad 4
9-14	Officers of Squad 2 with shields	33-34	Primary chemical agent officers
15	Sergeant of Squad 2	35-36	Prisoner wagon officers
16	Rear flanking chemical agent officer	37	Administrative sergeant
17-22	Officers of Squad 3 with shields	38	Mobile Field Force Commander
23	Sergeant of Squad 3	39-42	Vehicle security

ANNEX EMOBILE FIELD FORCE
CROWD MOVEMENT/CONTROL FORMATION

1-6	Officers of Squad 1 with shields	24	Right flanking chemical agent officer
7	Sergeant of Squad 1	25-31	Officers of Squad 4, arrest/rescue squad
8	Left flanking chemical agent officer	32	Sergeant of Squad 4
9-14	Officers of Squad 2 with shields	33-34	Primary chemical agent officers
15	Sergeant of Squad 2	35-36	Prisoner wagon officers
16	Rear flanking chemical agent officer	37	Administrative sergeant
17-22	Officers of Squad 3 with shields	38	Mobile Field Force Commander
23	Sergeant of Squad 3	39-42	Vehicle security

ANNEX F

LEFT FLANK MOVEMENT

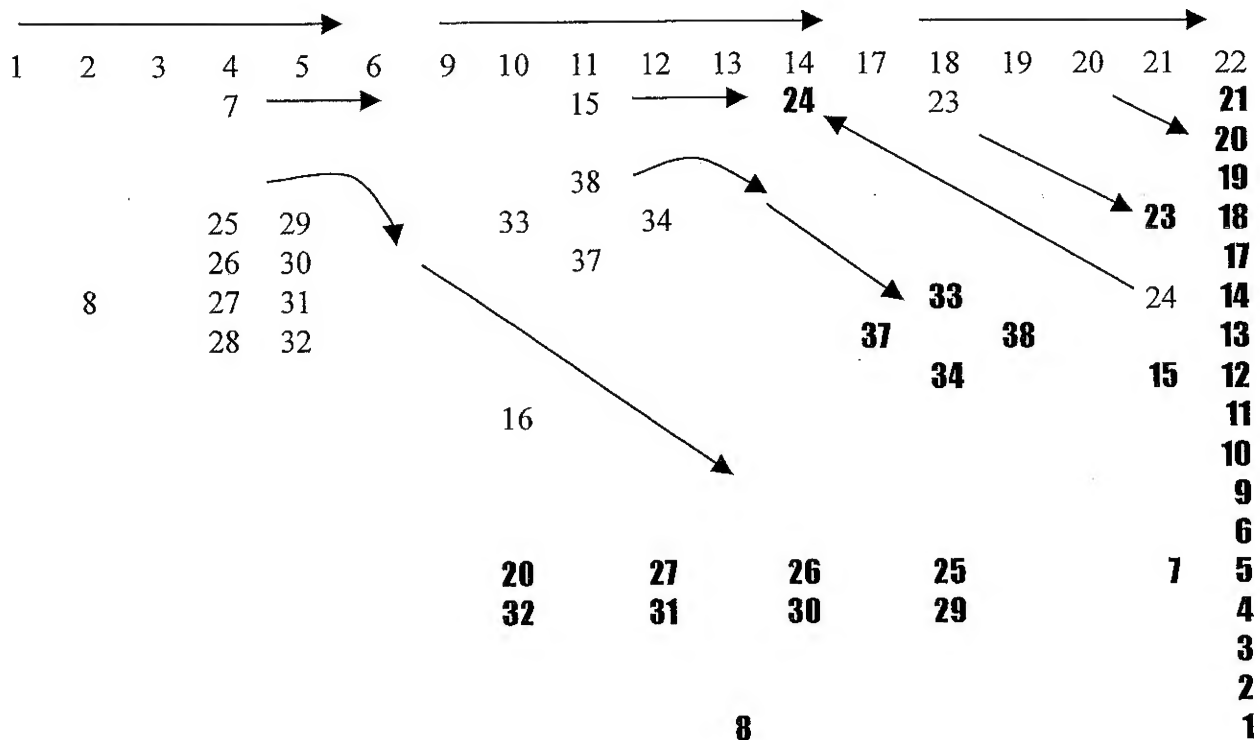


1-6	Officers of Squad 1 with shields	24	Right flanking chemical agent officer
7	Sergeant of Squad 1	25-31	Officers of Squad 4, arrest/rescue squad
8	Left flanking chemical agent officer	32	Sergeant of Squad 4
9-14	Officers of Squad 2 with shields	33-34	Primary chemical agent officers
15	Sergeant of Squad 2	35-36	Prisoner wagon officers
16	Rear flanking chemical agent officer	37	Administrative sergeant
17-22	Officers of Squad 3 with shields	38	Mobile Field Force Commander
23	Sergeant of Squad 3	39-42	Vehicle security

Note: Right flanking maneuver is the same as above except that Squad 3 officers move on the right side of the formation.

ANNEX G

FLANKING MOVEMENT (ENTIRE MOBILE FIELD FORCE)



1-6	Officers of Squad 1 with shields	24	Right flanking chemical agent officer
7	Sergeant of Squad 1	25-31	Officers of Squad 4, arrest/rescue squad
8	Left flanking chemical agent officer	32	Sergeant of Squad 4
9-14	Officers of Squad 2 with shields	33-34	Primary chemical agent officers
15	Sergeant of Squad 2	35-36	Prisoner wagon officers
16	Rear flanking chemical agent officer	37	Administrative sergeant
17-22	Officers of Squad 3 with shields	38	Mobile Field Force Commander
23	Sergeant of Squad 3	39-42	Vehicle security

- The MFFC will halt the forward motion of the MFF.
- The MFFC will give the appropriate command, either, “right face” or “left face”.
- The MFFC will give the appropriate command, either “column left, move” or “column right, move”.
- The line officer who has become the first officer in the line as a result of the command given will stand in place while each line officer behind the first officer will advance to a position directly behind the officer, then fall into line on the first officer’s right or left in accordance with the command given.
- Arrest/rescue squads will fall in their normal assigned positions behind the newly established line.